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Press Release

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DOT's Central Region to initiate Anchorage sidewalk, pathway clearing

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) today announced the commencement of sidewalk and pathway snow removal activities in the Anchorage bowl area.

This is a first-of-its-kind service for DOT&PF. To date, the department hasn't been equipped or funded to clear snow from sidewalks and pathways along its routes.

"We are very happy to respond to the community's needs with this new program," said DOT&PF Commissioner Leo von Scheben. "With funding from the legislature, we will now be able to improve wintertime safety conditions for pedestrians and other non-vehicular users of our transportation system in Anchorage."

Funding for the new equipment was contained in the FY2009 capital budget. The \$1,250,000 appropriation funded the purchase of eight Series 6 Trackless MT tractors with blower heads, snow blades, and brooms. This equipment will be used to clear snow from Anchorage sidewalks, pathways, bus stops, and trails in the winter, and then to sweep sand from those areas after breakup.

"We will partner with the municipality's street maintenance division to provide what should be a greatly enhanced service throughout the Anchorage area," said Central Region Director Gordon Keith. "We have already held a coordination meeting with them and have an initial breakdown of areas to be covered by each of us."

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